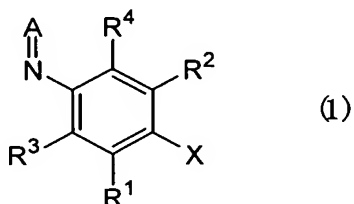


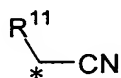
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A hair dye composition comprising a dissociative direct dye represented by the following formula (1) or a salt thereof:

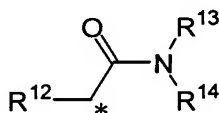


wherein, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent, X represents a hydroxyl group or $-NH\text{SO}_2R^5$, in which R^5 represents an alkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group, A represents a group represented by any one of the below-described formulae which group may have one or more substituents:

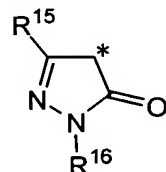
(Cp-1)



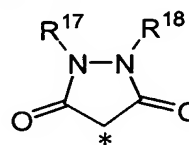
(Cp-2)



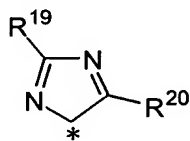
(Cp-3)



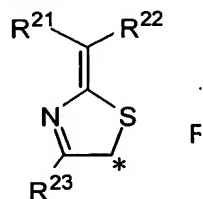
(Cp-4)



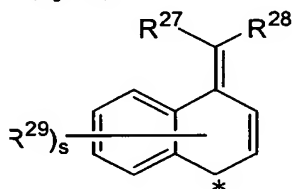
(Cp-5)



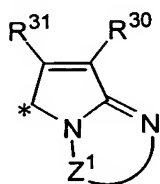
(Cp-6)



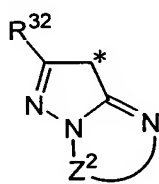
(Cp-8)



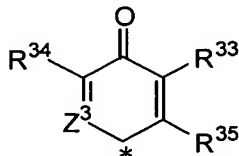
(Cp-9)



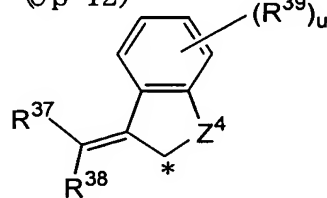
(Cp-10)



(Cp-11)



(Cp-12)



wherein * is a position bonding to the nitrogen atom in formula (1),

in formula (Cp-1), R^{11} represents a cyano, acyl, aryl or heterocyclic group, or -
 $C(R^{101})=C(R^{102})-R^{103}$, in which R^{101} , R^{102} and R^{103} each independently represents a hydrogen
atom or a substituent with the proviso that at least one of R^{102} and R^{103} is an electron
attractive group having a Hammett σ_p value of 0.1 or greater,

in formula (Cp-2), R^{12} represents a cyano, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, aryl or
heterocyclic group, and R^{13} and R^{14} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an
alkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group,

in formula (Cp-3), R^{15} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl, aryl, heterocyclic,
amino, alkylamino, arylamino, heterocyclic amino, alkoxy, acylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino,
ureido, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl or cyano group, and R^{16} represents a hydrogen atom or an
alkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group,

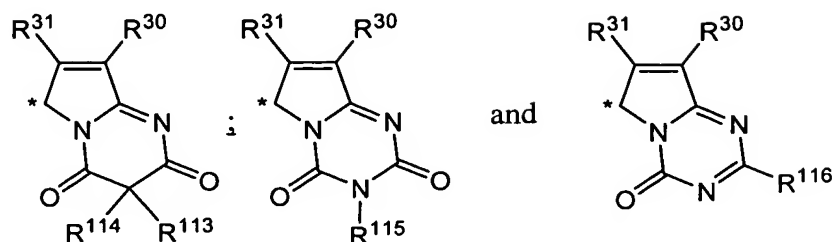
in formula (Cp-4), R^{17} and R^{18} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an
alkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group,

in formula (Cp-5), R^{19} and R^{20} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an
alkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group,

in formula (Cp-6), R^{21} and R^{22} each independently represents a cyano, carbamoyl,
alkoxycarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl or arylsulfonyl group, and R^{23} represents a hydrogen atom or
an alkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group,

in formula (Cp-8), R^{27} and R^{28} each independently represents a cyano, carbamoyl,
alkoxycarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl or arylsulfonyl group, R^{29} represents a substituent, and s stands
for an integer of from 0 to 6,

in formula (Cp-9), R^{30} and R^{31} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a
substituent, and Z^1 represents an atomic group necessary for the formation of a 6-membered
ring together with $N-C=N$, resulting in a ring system selected from the group consisting of:



wherein R^{113} and R^{114} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, R^{115} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, and R^{116} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, heterocyclic amino, acylamino, ureido, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, alkylthio, or arylthio group,

in formula (Cp-10), R^{32} represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent, and Z^2 represents an atomic group necessary for the formation of a 6-membered ring together with $N-C=N$,

in formula (Cp-11), R^{33} , R^{34} and R^{35} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent, Z^3 represents a nitrogen atom or $-C(R^{36})=$, in which R^{36} represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent, with the proviso that when Z^3 represents $-C(R^{36})=$, R^{34} and R^{36} may be coupled to form a 5-membered or 6-membered ring, and

in formula (Cp-12), R^{37} and R^{38} each independently represents a cyano, carbamoyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl or arylsulfonyl group, R^{39} represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent, u stands for an integer of from 0 to 4 and Z^4 represents $-SO_2-$ or $-SO$.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 of the dissociative direct dye (1) are each a hydrogen or halogen atom, or an alkyl, cyano, acylamino, ureido, alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, sulfamoylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, alkoxycarbonyl, sulfamoyl or carbamoyl group which may be substituted.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, wherein R³ and R⁴ of the dissociative direct dye (1) are each a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, or an alkyl or acylamino group which may be substituted.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, wherein X of the dissociative direct dye (1) is a hydroxyl group or -NHSO₂R⁵, and R⁵ is an alkyl group which may be substituted.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, wherein A of the dissociative direct dye (1) is a group, which may have one or more substituents, selected from the group consisting of:

formula (Cp-1) in which R¹¹ is a cyano group, acyl group, heterocyclic group or group -C(R¹⁰¹)=C(R¹⁰²)-R¹⁰³,

formula (Cp-2) in which R¹² is a cyano group, aryl group or heterocyclic group and R¹³ and R¹⁴ are each a hydrogen atom, alkyl group or aryl group, with the proviso that at least one of R¹³ and R¹⁴ represents a hydrogen atom,

formula (Cp-3) in which R¹⁵ is an alkyl, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, heterocyclic amino, alkoxy, acylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, ureido, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl or cyano group, and R¹⁶ is an aryl or heterocyclic group,

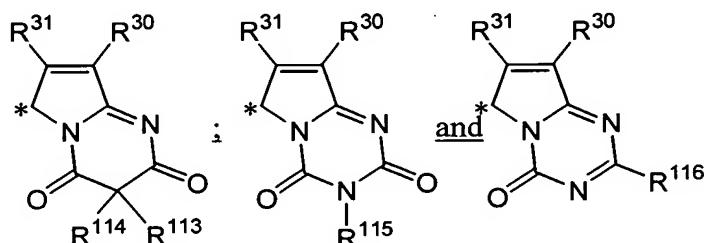
formula (Cp-4) in which R¹⁷ and R¹⁸ are each an alkyl or aryl group,

formula (Cp-5) in which R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are each an aryl or heterocyclic group,

formula (Cp-6) in which R²¹ and R²² are each a cyano, carbamoyl or alkoxycarbonyl and R²³ is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group,

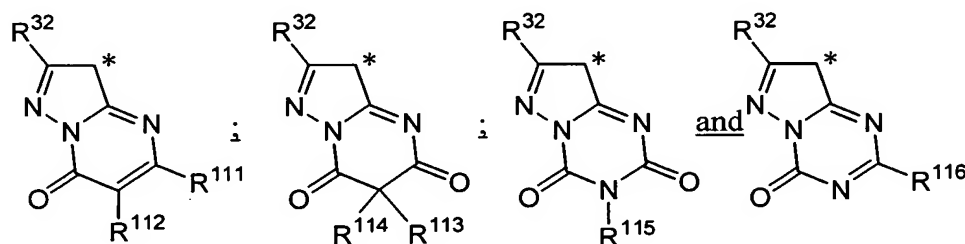
formula (Cp-8) in which R^{27} and R^{28} are each a cyano, carbamoyl or alkoxycarbonyl group, R^{29} is a halogen atom or an acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylsulfonyl or arylsulfonyl group, and s is an integer of from 0 to 2,

formula (Cp-9) in which R^{30} and R^{31} are each a hydrogen atom or an alkyl, aryl, heterocyclic, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl or cyano group and Z^1 represents an atomic group necessary for the formation of a 6-membered ring together with $N-C=N$, resulting in a ring system selected from the group consisting of:



in which, R^{113} and R^{114} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, R^{115} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, and R^{116} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, heterocyclic amino, acylamino, ureido, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, alkylthio, or arylthio group,

formula (Cp-10) in which R^{32} is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl, aryl, heterocyclic, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl or cyano group, and Z^2 is a group capable of forming the following ring systems:



in which, R^{111} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkoxy, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, heterocyclic amino, acylamino, ureido, alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, sulfamoylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, alkylthio, arylthio or heterocyclic thio group, R^{112} represents a hydrogen or halogen atom, or an alkyl, acyl, carbamoyl or alkoxycarbonyl group, R^{113} and R^{114} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, R^{115} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, and R^{116} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, heterocyclic amino, acylamino, ureido, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, alkylthio, or arylthio group,

formula (Cp-11) in which Z^3 is $-C(R^{36})=$, R^{36} representing a hydrogen atom or an acylamino group, R^{33} and R^{34} are each a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group or acylamino group, and R^{35} is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group; or in which Z^3 is $-C(R^{36})=$, R^{34} and R^{36} are coupled together to form a benzene ring which may be substituted with a halogen atom or an amino, alkylamino, arylamino, heterocyclic amino, acylamino, ureido, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkylsulfonylamino or arylsulfonylamino group, R^{33} represents an acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, carbamoyl or sulfamoyl group, and R^{35} represents a hydrogen atom, and

formula (Cp-12) in which R^{37} and R^{38} are a cyano or alkoxycarbonyl group, R^{39} is a halogen atom or an acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylsulfonyl or arylsulfonyl group, u is an integer of from 0 to 2, and Z^4 is $-SO_2-$.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, wherein A of the dissociative direct dye (1) is a group represented by formula selected from the group consisting of (Cp-1), (Cp-2), (Cp-3), (Cp-4), (Cp-9), and (Cp-11).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, wherein A of the dissociative direct dye (1) is a group represented by formula (Cp-1), R^{11} represents a cyano, acyl, aryl or heterocyclic group, or $-C(R^{101})=C(R^{102})-R^{103}$, in which R^{101} , R^{102} and R^{103} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent with the proviso that at least one of R^{102} and R^{103} is an electron attractive group having a Hammett σ_p value of 0.1 or greater,

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, wherein A of the dissociative direct dye (1) is a group represented by formula (Cp-2), R^{12} represents a cyano, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, aryl or heterocyclic group, and R^{13} and R^{14} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group,

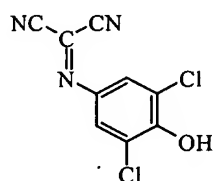
Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, wherein A of the dissociative direct dye (1) is a group represented by formula (Cp-3), R^{15} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl, aryl, heterocyclic, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, heterocyclic amino, alkoxy, acylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, ureido, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl or cyano group, and R^{16} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group,

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, wherein A of the dissociative direct dye (1) is a group represented by formula (Cp-11), R^{33} , R^{34} and R^{35} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent, Z^3 represents a nitrogen atom or $-C(R^{36})=$, in which R^{36} represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent, with the proviso

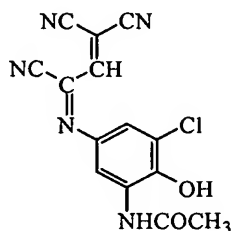
that when Z^3 represents $-C(R^{36})=$, R^{34} and R^{36} may be coupled to form a 5-membered or 6-membered ring.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, wherein said direct dye represented by formula (1) is selected from the group consisting of:

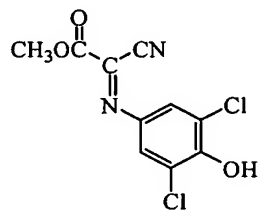
D-1



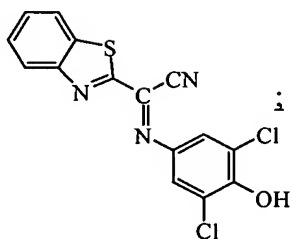
D-2



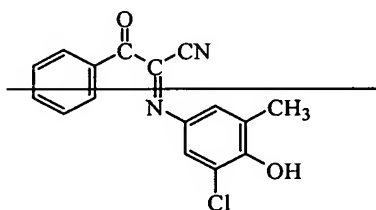
D-3



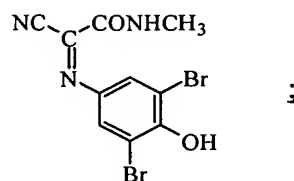
D-4



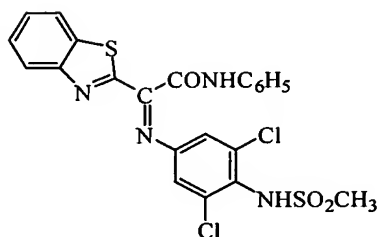
~~D-5~~



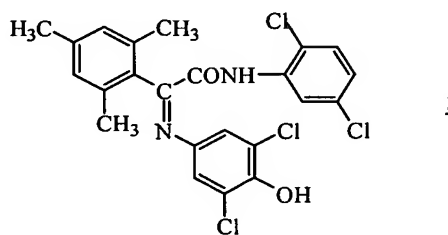
D-6



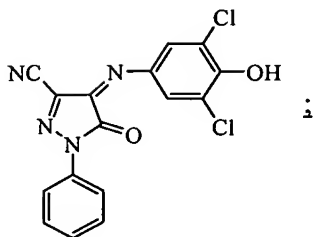
D-7



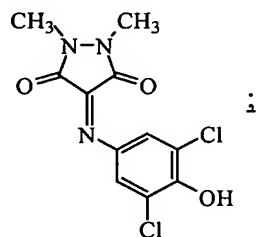
D-8



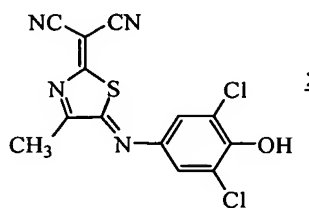
D-9



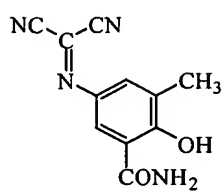
D-10



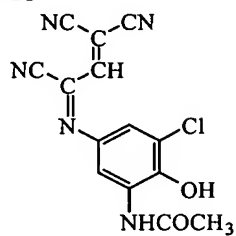
D-11



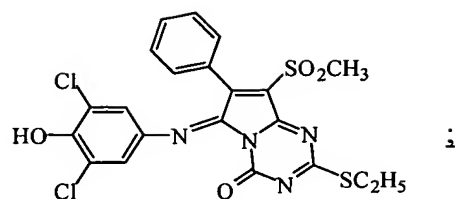
D-12



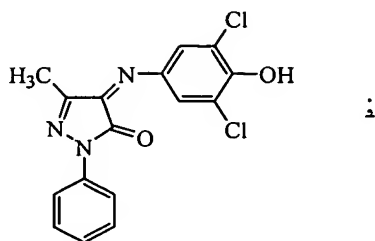
D-13



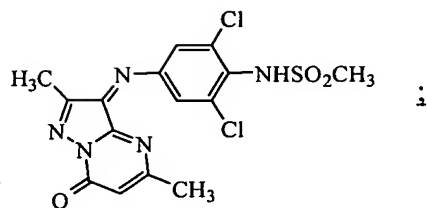
D-16



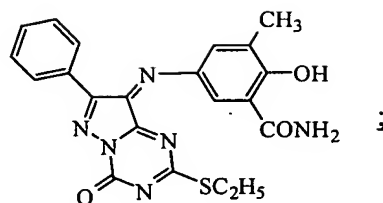
D-18



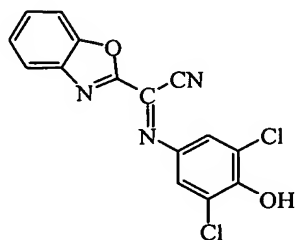
D-19



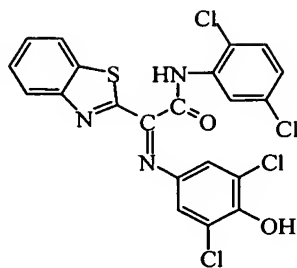
D-20



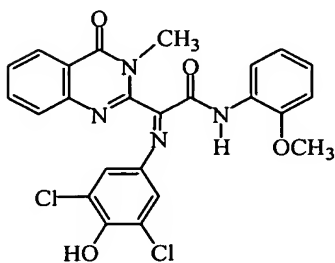
D-21



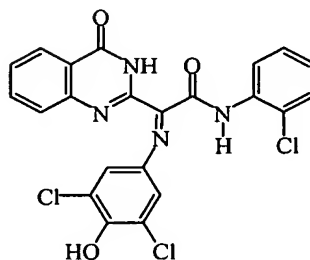
D-22



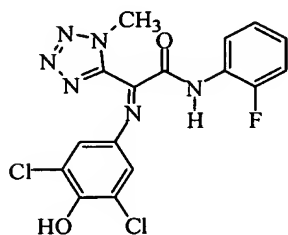
D-23



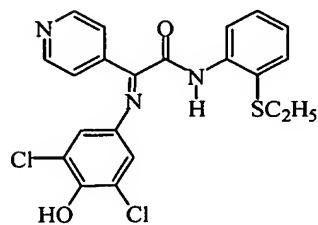
D-24



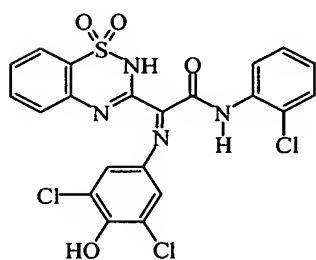
D-25



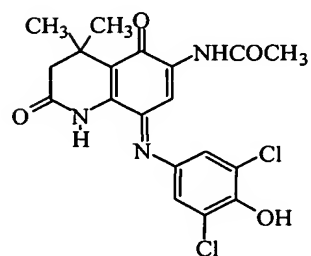
D-26



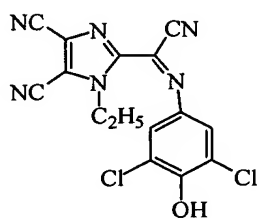
D-27



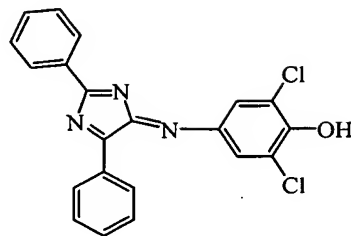
D-28



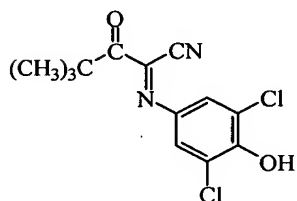
D-29



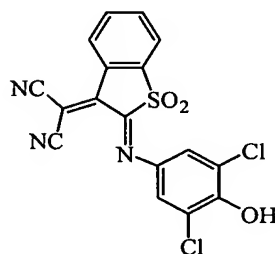
D-30



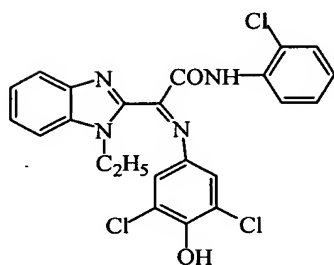
D-31



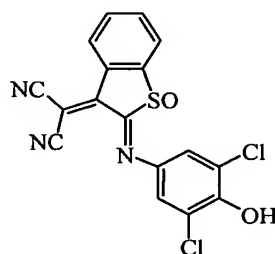
D-32



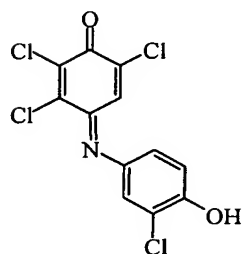
D-33



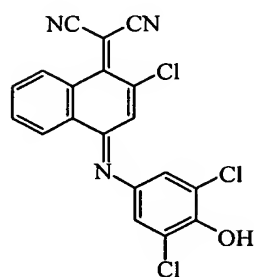
D-34



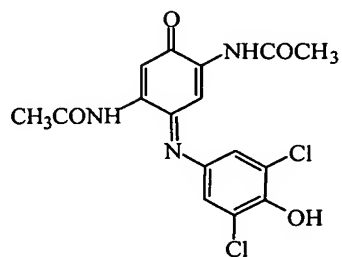
D-35



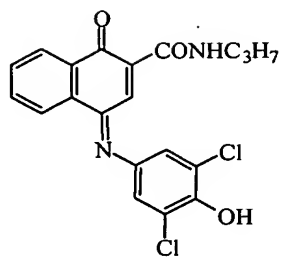
D-36



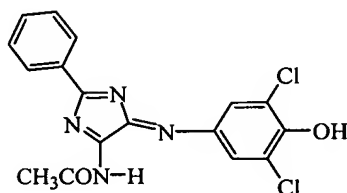
D-37



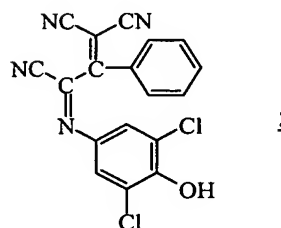
D-38



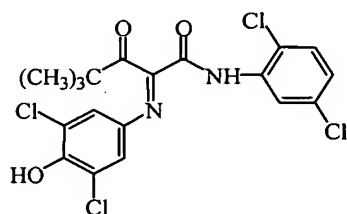
D-39



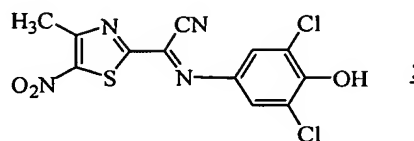
D-40



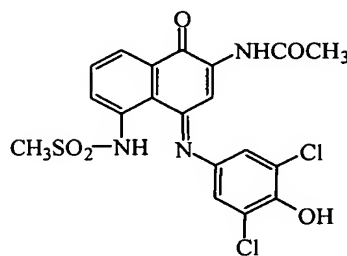
D-41



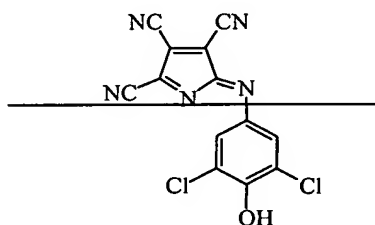
D-42



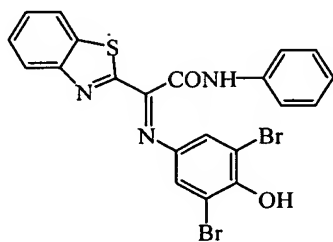
D-43



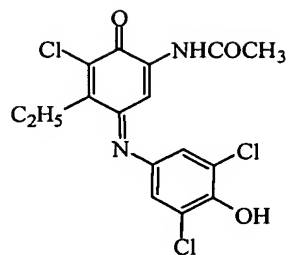
~~D-44~~



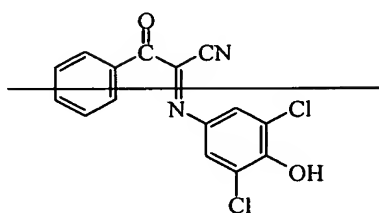
D-45



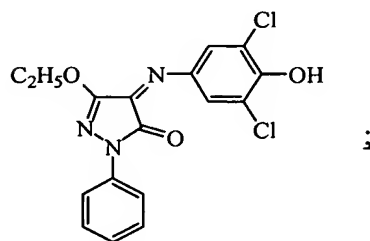
D-46



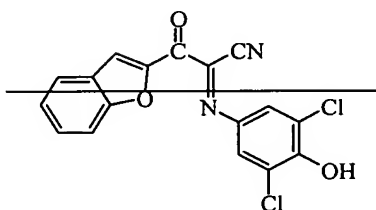
~~D-47~~



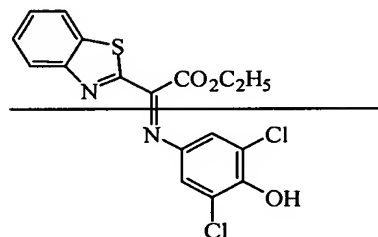
D-48



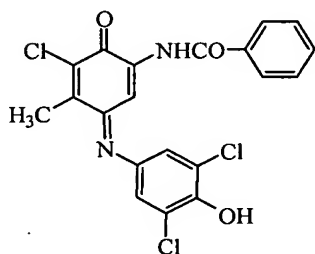
~~D-48~~



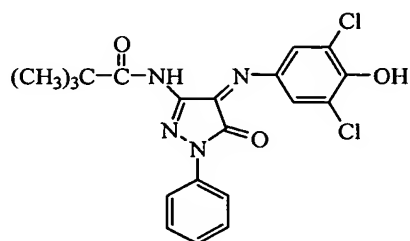
~~D-49~~



D-50



D-51



and

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, further comprising at least one direct dye or oxidation dye.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 12, wherein the total amount of said dissociative direct dye and said at least one direct dye ranges from 0.001 to 20 wt.% based on the whole composition.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, wherein the pKa of said dissociative direct dye ranges from 1.5 to 9.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, wherein the amount of said dissociative direct dye ranges from 0.001 to 20 wt.% based on the whole composition.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, further comprising at least one additional component selected from the group consisting of an alkali agent, an oxidizing agent, a developer, a coupler, an oxidation dye, an autooxidation dye, a direct dye, a polyol, a polyol alkyl ether, a cationic polymer, an amphoteric polymer, a silicone, a hydrocarbon, an animal fat or oil, a vegetable fat or oil, a higher fatty acid, an organic solvent, a penetration promoter, a cationic surfactant, a natural polymer, a synthetic polymer, a higher alcohol, an ether, an amphoteric surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, an anionic surfactant, a protein derivative, an amino acid, an antiseptic, a chelating agent, a stabilizer, an antioxidant, a plant extract, a crude drug extract, a vitamin, a colorant, a perfume, and an ultraviolet absorber.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A The hair dye composition of Claim 1, wherein said hair dye composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a powder, a transparent liquid, an emulsion, a cream, a gel, a paste, an aerosol, and an aerosol foam.

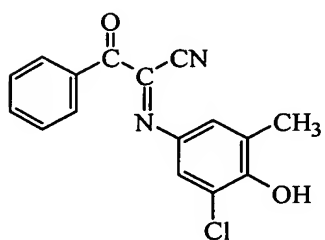
Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method of dying hair, comprising
applying to the hair of a subject in need thereof the hair dye composition of Claim 1
~~to the hair of a subject;~~

reacting said hair dye composition with said hair ~~of said subject;~~ and

removing said hair dye composition from said hair ~~of said subject.~~

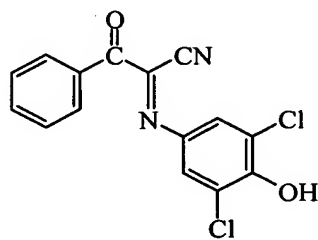
Claim 19 (New): A hair dye composition comprising a dissociative direct dye
selected from the group consisting of

D-5



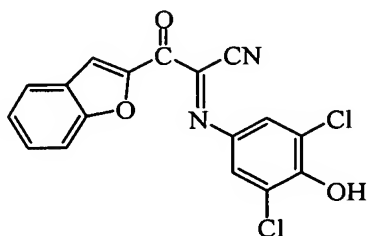
;

D-47

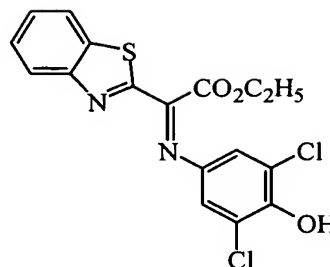


;

D-52



D-49



or a salt

thereof.

Claim 20 (New): The hair dye composition of Claim 19, further comprising at least one direct dye or oxidation dye.

Claim 21 (New): The hair dye composition of Claim 20, wherein the total amount of said dissociative direct dye and said at least one direct dye ranges from 0.001 to 20 wt.% based on the whole composition.

Claim 22 (New): The hair dye composition of Claim 19, wherein the pKa of said dissociative direct dye ranges from 1.5 to 9.

Claim 23 (New): The hair dye composition of Claim 19, wherein the amount of said dissociative direct dye ranges from 0.001 to 20 wt.% based on the whole composition.

Claim 24 (New): The hair dye composition of Claim 19, further comprising at least one additional component selected from the group consisting of an alkali agent, an oxidizing agent, a developer, a coupler, an oxidation dye, an autooxidation dye, a direct dye, a polyol, a

polyol alkyl ether, a cationic polymer, an amphoteric polymer, a silicone, a hydrocarbon, an animal fat or oil, a vegetable fat or oil, a higher fatty acid, an organic solvent, a penetration promoter, a cationic surfactant, a natural polymer, a synthetic polymer, a higher alcohol, an ether, an amphoteric surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, an anionic surfactant, a protein derivative, an amino acid, an antiseptic, a chelating agent, a stabilizer, an antioxidant, a plant extract, a crude drug extract, a vitamin, a colorant, a perfume, and an ultraviolet absorber.

Claim 25 (New): The hair dye composition of Claim 19, wherein said hair dye composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a powder, a transparent liquid, an emulsion, a cream, a gel, a paste, an aerosol, and an aerosol foam.

Claim 26 (New): A method of dying hair, comprising
applying to the hair of a subject in need thereof the hair dye composition of Claim 19;
reacting said hair dye composition with said hair; and
removing said hair dye composition from said hair.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-18 have been amended.

Claims 19-26 have been added.

The amendment of Claims 1-18 is supported by originally filed Claims 1-16 and the specification as originally filed. Further, support for new Claims 19-26 is provided by the originally filed claims and specification, for example page 26.

Applicants wish to make special note that the second occurrence of D-48 appearing in previously pending Claim 11 and on page 26 of the specification has been amended to avoid unnecessary and confusing duplicity in naming convention. Specifically, the second occurrence of D-48 has been replaced with D-52.

No new matter has been added by the present amendment.